

## PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: DARIN L. PETERSON ET AL.

FILED: MARCH 22, 2004

FOR: **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A  
PLURLAITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING  
MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES****Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of  
Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. **Timing of Submission**

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)]. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. **Cited Information**

Copies of the following references can be found in parent U.S. Application No. 09/999,032:

All cited references

3. **Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))**

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior

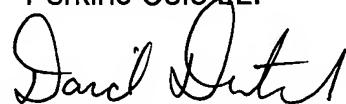
art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action.

However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,  
Perkins Coie LLP



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David T. Dutcher  
Registration No. 51,638

Date: March 22, 2004

**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 25096  
Perkins Coie LLP  
P.O. Box 1247  
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247  
(206) 359-8000

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|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br>Form PTO-1449 (Modified)<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |   |    |   | <b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b> |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Confirmation Number      |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | March 22, 2004    |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Darin L. Peterson |
|   |   |    |   | Group Art Unit           |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            |                   |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket No.      | 108298352US4      |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |          |                            |                      |  |  |
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| Examiner Initials*           | Cite No. | U.S. Patent or Application |                      | Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document | Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document |
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| *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s). |                 |

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| Examiner Initials*                                     | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  |  |  | T |
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